

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6169

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CARIO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2006

DEPT PLS PASS AMBASSADOR KEATING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI PRESS: US PRESSURES ON ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY. ISRAELI WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENTS
CONTINUE TO HAMMER AWAY ON THEME OF US PRESSURES ON ISRAEL.
END SUMMARY.

2. BLITZER IN JERUSALEM POST FRONT PAGE APRIL 4 NOTED: "DURING
THE PAST FEW DAYS SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF A COORDINATED
AMERICAN PRESSURE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL HAS COME TO LIGHT
IN WASHINGTON." THIS RESULTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANGER
AT PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S GOVERNMENT FOR ALLEGED LACK OF SUFFI-
CIENT FLEXIBILITY DURING KISSINGER'S RECENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.
AS EVIDENCE, BLITZER CITES (A) ADMINISTRATION'S POSTPONEMENT OF
DEFENSE MINISTER PERES' VISIT TO US IN MID-APRIL TO NEGOTIATE US-ISRAEL
ARMS DEAL, AND (B) REPORTS BY EVANS AND NOVAK THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS
ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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POSTPONED VISIT OF IAF PILOTS TO EVALUATE NEW F-15 AND
DELAY IN APPROVING SUPPLY OF LANCE MISSILES TO ISRAEL. SHOULD
DELIVERY OF LANCE INDEED BE POSTPONED, IT WOULD, ACCORDING TO
"OBSERVERS," AS REPORTED BY BLITZER, BE A "VIRTUALLY UNPRE-

CEDENTED ACT" AS IT HAD ALREADY BEEN PROMISED.

3. MARGALIT IN HAARETZ APRIL 4 ASSERTS "THE PRESSURE (ON ISRAEL) IS CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL. MOST CURRENT US-ISRAELI CONTACTS HAVE BEEN SLOWED DOWN OR STOPPED.." AS EVIDENCE OF PRESSURES HE CITES: TEO MEETINGS IN PAST WEEK BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND "OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES IN THE INTELLECTUAL-DEIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY," MANY OF WHOM URGED US COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION TO FORCE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDER; AND THE INTENTIONAL SELECTION OF DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESSINGER, KNOWN DURING THE OCTOBER WAR TO HAVE BEEN "ISRAEL'S FRIEND IN THE PENTAGON," TO ANNOUNCE REFUSAL TO ACCEPT NEW COMMITMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL DURING THE REASSESSMENT OF US POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. MARGALIT WARNS THAT NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS, AS URGED BY WASHINGTON, CANNOT BE MADE UNDER PRESSURE OF HALT IN ARMS SUPPLY. "IF WASHINGTON CREATES ATMOSPHERE OF PRESSURE, ISRAEL MUST PUT AWAY ANY NEW IDEAS IN HER FILES."

5. OVER MAJOR FRONT PAGE STORY IN MAARIV APRIL 4 BY SEGEV, IS SUBHEADLINE, "LEAKS ON POSTPONEMENT OF SUPPLY OF LANCE IS SEEN AS PART OF SCARE TACTICS TO FORCE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS FROM ARABS." SEGEV STORY FOCUSED ON EXPECTATION THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL DEFER SUBMITTING TO CONGRESS ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR \$2.5 BILLION OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION OF US REASSESSMENT OF MIDDLE EAST POLICY. SEGEV REPORTED THAT IN WASHINGTON IT IS ASSUMED THAT LEAK TO EVANS AND NOVAK CONCERNING SUPPLY OF LANCE MISSILES WAS INTENTIONAL EXPLOITATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLUMNISTS TO CREATE A CERTAIN ATMOSPHERE CONCERNING ISRAEL. THERE IS A CONSENSUS IN WASHINGTON, CONTINUED SEGEV, THAT "THE LONGER THE REASSESSMENT (OF US MIDDLE EAST POLICY) TAKES, THE MORE THE PRESSURES WILL BE FELT IN ISRAEL."

VELIOTES

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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